2. As a part of the Development Study, JICA has also provided grant assistance for improvement of one ghat at Varanasi. Based on discussions with the local people and organizations in Varanasi, Manikarnika Ghat had been selected and an amount of around Rs. 75 lakhs was allocated for the purpose. The ghat improvement works have since been completed.

3. The JICA Study Team had submitted the Master Plan and Feasibility studies report for the sewerage and non-sewerage works in Varanasi town in the first phase during 2004-05 based upon which the JBIC have signed an agreement with the Government of India for providing loan for taking up the pollution abatement schemes of the river Ganga in this town at an estimated cost of Rs. 540 crore (13.248 billion Yen). The Feasibility Studies for the remaining three towns have been completed by JICA during 2005-06 and the reports submitted.

(c) In the Joint Statement signed between India and UK on 11th October, 2005, two countries have agreed on technology Co-operation for the abatement of pollution including water, air and soil pollution, which *inter-alia* includes water bodies. However, no specific proposal for extending help in cleaning of the Ganga and other major rivers has been received from the U.K.

(d) Does not arise.

HIV infected blood transfusion in Kerala

†*196. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a female baby of one and a half year was administered AIDS infected blood at a hospital in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any one has been held guilty for this act;

(c) if so, the action taken against the accused so far, and the steps being taken for the treatment of the infected baby; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) As per the report submitted by Kerala State AIDS Control Society, a baby named "Reshmi" was found to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

be HIV positive during hospitalisation at SAT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, on 18.10.2005. A detailed enquiry conducted by a High Level Committee appointed by the Director of Medical Education, Government of Kerala, indicated that the blood given to the child was tested as per the statutory requirements for screening of blood transmissible diseases including HIV and the blood unit was transfused to the child only after finding that all tests were negative. The report, therefore, does not establish any evidence that the HIV infection was acquired by the baby on account of transfusion of HIV infected blood at the hospital. However, as the child was found to be HIV positive, she was put on ART treatment and her health condition is reported to be satisfactory.

As transfusion of infected blood and blood prodcts is one of the modes of transmission, the National AIDS Control Programme ensures safety of blood and blood products before transfusion by enforcing mandatory screening of all blood units for transfusion transmissible infections including HIV. If any blood unit is found to be reactive to any of the transfusion transmissible infections (HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria), then the same is compulsorily discarded on universal safety precautions. Secondly, in order to ensure safe supply of blood, professional blood donation has been banned in the country since 1st January, 1998.

One of the principal components of the strategy of ensuring safe blood is the promotion of voluntary blood donation. The other activities taken up under the programme include modernisation of 1179 blood banks including 82 blood component separation facilities and adopting quality management practices. The strict enforcement of these measures through training and periodic monitoring has enabled transmission of HIV through blood, reduced from 9% in 1993 to less than 2% in 2005. The goal of the programme is to reduce this as less than 1%.

Rusted machines in Safdarjung Hospital

*197. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rusted machines are being used in the Safdarjung Hospital for the treatment of cancer patients;